

# Franc D'Ambrosio NATS Master Class

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## Most important questions to ask:

Why do you WANT to sing the song?

Why do you NEED to *sing* (not just speak the lines) the song? – this will up the ante

## Quotes:

In response to a question about the *one* thing a young singer needs to know: “You MUST know your technique. A natural voice can get to Broadway & do well, but when too many late nights, a cold, edema in the chords, emotional upset catches up with you, you MUST know how to sing through it without damaging your voice. Solid technique is the most important tool a young singer needs to have.”

“Sing an OPINION, not just a note”

“In life, be as arbitrary as you want, in art you must be specific”

“Your job is to fill in the character — the notes, words, rhythm are already done for you by the composer & lyricist.”

“Acting is living truthfully underneath imaginary circumstances”

“Learn how to act by the punctuation. Go from thought to thought – why the comma, embrace the exclamation point.”

“We have to know the *complication* of the character – operas aren’t written about plumbers happily married to faithful wives with 2 kids at Harvard – know where is the shadow side of the character.”

“Intimacy is revealing *yourself* in the presence of others – discovering who you are *and* your reasons throughout the song”

“Clearly understanding the character so you are clearly explaining what is going on clears up the diction — you are communicating”

“A life-changing incident – *know* what it was, or else it’s a broad brush stroke (green, for example – boring!)”

“Actions will follow intentions – the body will follow”

“Nothing is funny that isn’t truth — comedy comes from truth, if it isn’t true, it *isn’t* funny”

“Singing is speaking on pitch”

“If you want to make money – become a banker, not a performer.”